

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 /102 W
-----076101 180350Z /15

O R 180224Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4921
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2633

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORT, CU, RQ, UN
SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) - PUERTO RICO

REF: A) USUN 2618
B) USUN 2606

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON PM AUGUST 17 C-24 ACCEPTED PROPOSAL
BY CHAIRMAN SALIM TO ADJOURN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1. SALIM PROPOSED THIS FOLLOWING CUBA'S
INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED ONLY BY CUBA.
ACCORDING C-24 VICE CHAIRMAN VRAALSEN AND AUSTRALIA'S
C-24 REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER, THERE EXISTS MUCH SENTIMENT
AMONG C-24 MEMBER INCLUDING USSR AND YUGOSLAVIA TO AVOID
VOTING SITUATION AND TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS TO CONCLUDE
CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AM AUGUST 17 AMBASSADOR LEONARD CONSULTED VRAALSEN.
LEONARD ASKED VRAALSEN TO TELL CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON THAT
WE WERE DISTURBED OVER CUBA'S REPORTED DECISION TO TABLE DRAFT
RESOLUTION (REFTEL A) AND TO ADD THAT ALARCON'S
REACTION TO PROPOSED DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT GIVEN
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CUBANS (REFTEL B) STILL WAS
AWAITED. VRAALSEN DID THIS. ALARCON TOLD VRAALSEN
THAT CUBA FELT AN OBLIGATION TO TABLE RESOLUTION
WANTED BY CERTAIN PUERTO RICAN ELEMENTS. ALARCON
ADDED THAT HAVANA HAD NOTED ALLEGATIONS IN PUERTO
RICAN PRESS THAT CUBA WAS GOING SOFT ON PUERTO
RICO OUT OF INTEREST IN PROMOTION OF BILATERAL

RELATIONS WITH US. ALARCON ALSO NOTED AGAIN THAT THIS YEAR PETITIONERS FROM ALL THREE OF PUERTO RICO'S MAIN POLITICAL GROUPINGS HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF US POLICY TOWARD PUERTO RICO. WHEN VRAALSEN ASKED ALARCON FOR HIS REACTION TO DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT ALARCON REJECTED CONSENSUS STATEMENT, BUT SEEMED TO LEAVE DOOR SLIGHTLY OPEN FOR POSSIBLE USE OF CONSENSUS STATEMENT LATER. VRAALSEN ALSO MET WITH C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM WHO SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE ADJOURNMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO UNTIL SEPTEMBER, AFTER CUBA INTRODUCED ITS RESOLUTION.

3. PETITIONERS CONCLUDED STATEMENTS AT AM MEETING. IN PM BENIN (A NON-C-24 MEMBER) WAS HEARD FIRST AND THEN CUBA RELATIVELY BRIEFLY INTRODUCED ITS DRAFT RESOLUTION. THERE WERE NO OTHER SPEAKERS FROM C-24. FOLLOWING CUBA'S STATEMENT, SALIM PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF HEARINGS ON PUERTO RICO UNTIL THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. IN THIS CONNECTION, SALIM NOTED PRACTICE OF ALLOWING ADEQUATE TIME FOR MEMBERS TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION TEXTS AND NEED FOR MANY REPRESENTATIVES ON C-24 TO TRAVEL TO LAGOS IN COMING DAYS FOR ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. SALIM'S PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED WITH DISCUSSION. CHINA, HOWEVER, ASKED THAT RECORD BE MADE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS PREFERENCE TO HAVE MOVED FORWARD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON THE RIGHT OF PUERTO RICO'S PEOPLE TO INDEPENDENCE.

4. FORRESTER AND VRAALSEN HAVE SINCE EMPHASIZED TO US THAT THERE IS MUCH SENTIMENT AMONG C-24 MEMBER FOR CONSENSUS CONCLUSION TO COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. ADDITIONALLY ACCORDING FORRESTER, THERE IS APPRECIATION AMONG C-24 MEMBER FOR WAY IN WHICH US HAS BEEN APPROACHING THIS MATTER OF MUCH US IMPORTANCE. FORRESTER SAID THAT CUBA BY INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION WHICH THREATENED A VOTING SITUATION HAD CAST ITSELF IN THE "HEAVY'S" ROLE. FORRESTER CONTINUED THERE IS GROWING INTEREST IN THE DRAFT FOR A CONSENSUS STATEMENT. ACCORDING FORRESTER, THE TEXT HAD BEEN SUPPLIED TO CHAIRMAN SALIM, VICE CHAIRMAN ABDULAH (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) AS WELL AS INDIAN AND YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVES. FORRESTER SAID YUGOSLAVS AND SOVIETS BOTH HAD EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT THEY WANTED TO AVOID A VOTING SITUATION.

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L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2633

5. AS TO COURSE OF US ACTION DURING INTERVAL UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 1, FORRESTER AND VRAALSEN RECOMMEND
"MODERATE" US APPROACHES IN NEW YORK AND CAPITALS
AS WELL AS AT LAGOS CONFERENCE. THESE WOULD NOTE
"REPORTED" EXISTENCE OF DRAFT FOR CONSENSUS STATEMENT AND
STRONG US PREFERENCE FOR A CONSENSUS STATEMENT TO CONCLUDE
THE PROCEEDINGS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SALIM, ABDULAH,
AND VRAALSEN WILL BE AT LAGOS AS WELL AS ALARCON AND OTHER
C-24 REPRESENTATIVES. USUN WOULD CONCUR IN THIS TYPE OF US
PROGRAM TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR CONSENSUS STATEMENT. SIMULTANEOUSLY
WE SHOULD ALSO URGE NEGATIVE VOTES OR ABSTENTIONS
SHOULD CUBAN DRAFT RESOLUTION COME TO A VOTE. WITH LATTER
GOAL IN MIND, LEONARD AND VRAALSEN AGREED THAT STEPS
SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE AMELIORATION OF DRAFT
RESOLUTION, SINCE IMPROVEMENT OF TEXT COULD LESSEN POTENTIAL
FOR NON-SUPPORT. LEONARD AND VRAALSEN ALSO CONSIDERED
THAT IT COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO PRESS FOR A MOTION
TO REJECT COMPETENCE OF C-24 TO CONSIDER PUERTO RICO SINCE
PROSPECTS FOR A FAVORABLE VOTE ON SUCH A MOTION WOULD
BE DIM (REFTEL A).

6. TEXT OF CUBAN DRAFT RESOLUTION IN UN DOCUMENT A/AC.109/L
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OF 17 AUGUST 1977 FOLLOWS:

QTE: THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE,

HAVING CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE LIGHT
OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) OF 14 DECEMBER
1960 AND OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ON THE ITEM,

TAKING NOTE WITH APPRECIATION OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE
RAPPORTEUR, IN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS DECISION OF 7 SEPTEMBER
1976,

HAVING HEARD THE TESTIMONIES OF THE PETITIONERS,

MINDFUL OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF
HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES,
HELD AT COLOMBO FROM 16 TO 19 AUGUST 1976, AS WELL AS BY
THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES, HELD AT NEW DELHI FROM 7 TO 11 APRIL 1977,
CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO,

1. REAFFIRMS THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF
PUERTO RICO TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514
(XV) AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF
28 AUGUST 1972, 30 AUGUST 1973 AND 7 SEPTEMBER 1976
CONCERNING PUERTO RICO;

2. URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
RESOLUTION 1514 (XV), IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO
RICO TO EXERCISE FULLY THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION
AND INDEPENDENCE IN THE MANNER AND THROUGH THE MECHANISMS
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THAT THEY MAY CHOOSE; AND, MEANWHILE, TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING
ANY MEASURE THAT COULD ABRIDGE, WEAKEN OR STEER THE FREE
DECISIONS OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE CONCERNING THEIR
POLITICAL STATUS, INCLUDING THE EXPLOITATION OF THE
MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES OF PUERTO RICO;

3. DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE
FIVE NATIONALIST PATRIOTS HELD IN UNITED STATES PRISONS;

4. DECIDES TO KEEP THE COLONIAL SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO
UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW. UNQTE.
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Message Attributes

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